



CODY REGION

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WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT



Illegal town deer kill

Cody Game Warden Travis Crane worked on a case involving youth hunters that illegally killed two buck mule deer in the town of Cody. Two Cody youths were found guilty on multiple counts, including; hunting without permission on private land, shooting from the road, and taking deer during the special archery season without licenses. Both youth had trespassed in town and shot large buck mule deer. Both deer ran to adjacent properties where the youth trespassed through backyards and continued to shoot at the deer. One of the deer ended up in a housing cul-de-sac and the hunter shot the deer while it was standing in the road and while standing on the sidewalk. Judge Waters sentenced both youth to six months probation and to pay fines of \$280 each. Additionally, the hunters will have to perform community service and will each have to retake a hunter safety class during their probation period.



Buck mule deer taken illegally in Cody.

Stories of interest....

Quality bulls

Cody Game Wardens Travis Crane and Craig Smith rode into the Thorofare to check outfitter camps and harvest success. Success was fair with a few hunters killing quality bulls. Additionally, numerous moose were observed in Thorofare and Eagle Creek drainages.

High fawn ratios

Greybull game warden Bill Robertson completed antelope classifications in hunt area 79. High fawn ratios were observed and several good buck antelope were seen in this archery only area.

A little target practice

On Sept 11, Worland Game Warden Matt Lentsch received a call from a representative of the Worland Shooting Range. After constructing a new 3-D archery course and installing two antelope targets, a rogue buck antelope was witnessed “attacking” the targets on several occasions. The representative wanted to know how he could stop the carnage. Lentsch advised him to remove the targets horns. Lentsch has not received any more reports of the buck terrorizing the targets.

Could have been Boone and Crocket moose

On Sept. 17, Worland Game Warden Matt Lentsch received a call from a USFS ranger in reference to a bull moose being shot illegally. The initial report stated a reporting party witnessed a man shooting a large bull moose with a crossbow as he leaned over the hood of his truck while standing in the middle of a public road. The shooter then left the area. The reporting party was concerned that the man poached the moose. Further investigation by Lentsch revealed that the man did in fact shoot the moose from a public road, however he left to get a trailer and returned to the moose. When he returned, the moose was still alive. His son then shot at the moose six times with a .41 magnum pistol. Lentsch eventually dispatched the moose. The moose was 55 inches wide and would have scored well in Boone and Crocket if it was not taken illegally. Lentsch cited the shooter and his son for violations. It is unfortunate that a record book moose was taken in such an unethical manner.



Bill Robertson teaches students of Cloud Peak Middle School about large carnivore avoidance while camping.

Illegal bear bait

Powell Game Warden Chris Queen worked on identifying the person or persons who placed an illegal bear bait in the Dry Fork of Pat O'hara Creek. A bait was placed in the same area in 2011 and physical evidence showed that at least one grizzly bear was attracted to the bait.

Think habitat



Conifer removal project

Habitat Biologist Jerry Altermatt continued a conifer removal project in the Black Mountain area southeast of Shell in the Bighorn Mountains. Conservation Seeding and Restoration was contracted to remove encroaching juniper, limber pine and Douglas fir on 637 acres of sagebrush/grassland. The contractor is using two skidsteers outfitted with mastication heads to mulch the conifers to ground level. The goal of the project is to maintain elk, mule deer and sage-grouse

habitat by eliminating conifer encroachment that could eventually replace sagebrush and grasses. The project is being funded by BLM, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Wyoming Sage-grouse Conservation Fund.

Cheatgrass removal

Habitat biologist Jerry Altermatt also conducted a cheatgrass control treatment southeast of Worland. The treatment consisted of ground application of herbicide to 250 acres within an area that was aerially treated in 2011 but had a significant amount of cheatgrass returning. The area is within sage-grouse core area and crucial winter range for pronghorn and mule deer. The treatment was conducted by Field Services and Weed Control of Cody using ATV boom sprayers.

Noxious weed treatment

A noxious weed treatment contract on Yellow-tail Wildlife Habitat Management Area began in September. The treatment consists of herbicide spraying to control primarily Canada thistle and Russian knapweed within the 2013 Big Fork wildfire area. The treatment is being conducted by Field Services and Weed Control of Cody using ATV sprayers.



FOREVER WILD families

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department welcomes five families into the 2014/2015 Forever Wild Families program.

Forever Wild Families is a series of customized outings for those with an interest in the outdoors but have little to no hunting or fishing experience. Over the course of a year, families “learn by doing” by participating in a series of workshops designed to teach skills associated with hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities.



As part of a Hunter Education class and range day, Forever Wild Families had the opportunity to handle shotguns, .22 rifles and large bore rifles.



Forever Wild Families enjoy a day of fishing for Yellowstone cutthroat trout at Hogan Reservoir.



Bearwise Wyoming

As hunters and recreators hit the field this fall, we again stress the importance of remaining “*Bear Aware*”. The success of a recovered grizzly bear population in north-west Wyoming means that there is a likelihood that people may have an encounter with a bear while out and about. People who live in or recreate in “large carnivore country” have done an exceptional job to make sure they are mentally and physically prepared to make the right decisions to decrease the likelihood of unfortunate circumstances. Here are additional pointers for hunters to remember while pursuing their quarry:



Photo by Steven Koehler

- Hunt or call with a partner and stay within sight of each other.
- Remain alert and watchful for bear activity; avoid “tunnel vision” while pursuing game.
- Learn to recognize bear sign such as scat, tracks, and diggings.
- Know where seasonal food sources are present and either avoid or be especially cautious in those areas.
- Be aware that the presence of ravens and other scavengers is a good indication that carcasses or gut piles are nearby and a bear may be in the area.
- Carry a defense readily accessible. The knowledge of how to use your defense should be automatic.



New office manager selected

The Cody regional office is pleased to announce that Michelle Parker has been selected as a new office manager. Michelle comes to us from the Casper area and has worked as a temporary office staff member for the last year.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department



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Find us on the Web: <http://wgfd.wyo.gov>